

Media RELEASE

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DIA Orders Emergency Removal of Residents from The Abbey

DES MOINES, IOWA – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) today suspended the license of The Abbey, a skilled nursing facility, and ordered the immediate removal of all residents from the facility. Today's action comes after facility staff told DIA on-site inspectors that they could no longer meet the nursing care needs of the residents. Additionally, staff also reported the potential for shortages of durable medical equipment and supplies, food and dietary supplies, and that facility laundry services were inoperable.

The admissions by The Abbey's staff occurred during a daily monitoring visit conducted this morning by the Department. Currently, there are 41 residents in The Abbey, located at 2501 24th Street, who will be relocated to other Des Moines-area facilities.

"Today's disclosures, coupled with the Department's ongoing monitoring activities, demonstrate that the health and safety of the residents requires their immediate removal from the facility," DIA Director Steve Young said. Iowa law provides that the Director may remove all residents and suspend the license of a health care facility when the Director finds that the health or safety of the residents requires such action, Young explained.

The Abbey has been subject to ongoing monitoring and enforcement actions by DIA. State inspectors have been in the facility on a daily basis since March 20 after determining that ongoing systemic practices affecting resident health, safety, security and welfare present an imminent danger or substantial probability of harm to residents. On March 22, DIA issued a conditional license to the facility for its inability to operate in accordance with state licensing requirements.

In response to this emergency situation, DIA activated a crisis management team to oversee the evacuation and relocation of the residents. Members of the crisis management team include representatives from the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs. DHS and DEA representatives will assist the residents and their family members in relocating to other nursing facilities. The Des Moines Police Department and Polk County Emergency Management Services also assisted in the emergency removal of the residents.

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